

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 897

By Bowers

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Tommie McCarter,
Principal of Westwood Middle/High School in
Memphis.

WHEREAS, the members of this General Assembly recognize that there can be no greater influence on a child than that of a good teacher; and

WHEREAS, time spent in the classroom is an investment that will reap great dividends not only for the present, but for future generations as well; and

WHEREAS, Tommie McCarter has generously shared her skills, compassion, and enthusiasm with the many valued students of Westwood Middle/High School as their Principal; under her tireless leadership, students have been encouraged to commit themselves to excellence, academic mastery, and high expectations; and

WHEREAS, by personal example, Tommie McCarter has set a highly visible standard of citizenship for her students, earning the great respect and admiration of Westwood Middle/High School's students, faculty, staff, and parents; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Westwood Middle/High School community have many reasons to take pride in their school: Westwood was the recipient of a three-year CSR grant, resulting in \$100,000 in program funding for reading and math, and also received a \$13,000 ED-Tech grant and an \$8,000 Literacy grant; the school has integrated technology at all grade levels, and all math and science classrooms have SmartBoards; additionally, Westwood achieved the benchmark of 95 percent participation in state-mandated testing; and

WHEREAS, Westwood Middle/High School boasts an enrollment of 569 students and promotion rates of 80 percent with an average class size of twenty-five; moreover, fully 63 percent of the faculty have master's or doctoral degrees, with 100 percent having attained their State Teaching Certificate and License; and

WHEREAS, in the 2004-2005 school year, Westwood Middle/High School met or exceeded Adequate Yearly Progress (AYP) standards as defined in the No Child Left Behind Act (NCLB); and

WHEREAS, committed to excellence, Westwood Middle/High School offers an innovative and effective array of academic programs to help students excel, including Watch DOGS, Brothers of Westwood, Honors Recognition, *The Longhorn* school newspaper, AP English, WellChild Health Screening, Family Literacy Night, Parent Training Center, Health Fair, French and Spanish language classes, and honors classes in core subject areas; and

WHEREAS, Westwood Middle/High School has also partnered with corporations and civic groups, including Brim's Snack Foods, Mt. Vernon-Westwood Baptist Church, Systems Technologies, LLC, and It's All Good Auto Sales to offer rewards and incentives for students on the academic, attendance, and citizenship honor rolls; and

WHEREAS, Principal Tommie McCarter and the entire staff of Westwood Middle/High School work tirelessly to fulfill the mission of their school: "Striving to provide all students with the skills and knowledge needed to become proficient in reading, writing, math, and critical thinking as we prepare them for post-secondary education, and/or today's work force."; and

WHEREAS, in her many years in education and educational administration, Tommie McCarter has, by her commitment, dedication, personal involvement, and enthusiasm for the success of each one of her students, exemplified the very best in teaching excellence; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Ms. Tommie McCarter for her outstanding record as Principal of Westwood Middle/High School and for her many years of dedicated and selfless service to the students under her care as an educator and administrator.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we thank Tommie McCarter for her commitment to the education of the youth of her community, her devotion to their best interests, and her many contributions to her community and to this State. We offer her our best wishes for every success in all her future endeavors and much happiness in the years to come.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.